

**CLAIM AMENDMENTS**

Please cancel Claims 1 - 11.

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1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

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12. (New) A covering retaining device comprising, in combination:

at least one stake member having a plurality of longitudinal ribs, at least one of said plurality of longitudinal ribs having a slot located in an upper portion of said at least one of said plurality of longitudinal ribs, said slot adapted to receive at least one flexible and resilient member, the length of said slot adapted for overcoming depth variations of a supporting surface whereon the covering is loosely pre-positioned;

said at least one stake member tapering at one end of said at least one stake member for driving into the supporting surface and an opposite end of said at least one stake member having a recess;

a removable personalized head member having a protrusion, said recess of said at least one stake member adapted to receive said protrusion of said removable personalized head member; and

said at least one flexible and resilient member coupled to a resilient clip thereby retaining the covering on the supporting surface having variations in depth when a portion of the covering is coupled to said resilient clip.

13. (New) The device according to Claim 1, wherein said removable personalized head member is at least one of a football, a baseball, a representation of a head of a person, a representation of a logo, a representation of a character, a representation of an animal figure, a representation of sports paraphernalia, a rectangular prism adapted to receive advertising and a display of a manufactured product.

14. (New) The device according to Claim 1 wherein said slot of said at least one of said plurality of longitudinal ribs comprises about one third of the length of said at least one stake member thereby overcoming depth variations of a supporting surface whereon the covering is loosely pre-positioned.

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15. (New) The device according to Claim 1 wherein the covering is at least one of a blanket and a towel.

16. (New) The device according to Claim 1 wherein said at least one flexible and resilient member is at least one of an elastic cord and a rope thereby permitting the covering to return to an original position if the covering is disturbed.

17. (New) The device according to Claim 1 wherein said resilient clip comprises an upper clip arm and a lower clip arm and a resilient connecting member, said upper clip arm coupled to said lower clip arm by said resilient connecting member, and a portion of each one of said upper clip arm and said lower clip arm having ribbing for enhanced gripping of a portion of the covering.

18. (New) The device according to Claim 1 wherein said plurality of longitudinal ribs of said stake member comprises four longitudinal ribs.

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19. (New) A method for retaining a covering comprising the steps of:

cont. *As*  
providing at least one stake member having a plurality of longitudinal ribs, at least one of said plurality of longitudinal ribs having a slot located in an upper portion of said at least one of said plurality of longitudinal ribs, said slot adapted to receive at least one flexible and resilient member, the length of said slot adapted for overcoming depth variations of a supporting surface whereon the covering is loosely pre-positioned;

providing said slot of said at least one of said plurality of longitudinal ribs comprises about one third of the length of said at least one stake member;

driving one end of said at least one stake member into the supporting surface and providing an opposite end of said at least one stake member having a recess;

providing a removable personalized head member having a protrusion, said recess of said at least one stake member adapted to receive said protrusion of said removable personalized head member;

coupling said protrusion of said removable head member to said recess;

coupling said at least one flexible and resilient member to a resilient clip thereby retaining the covering on the supporting surface having variations in depth when a portion of the covering is coupled to said resilient clip;

coupling said resilient clip to a portion of the covering; and

positioning said at least one flexible and resilient member coupled to said slot of said at least one of said plurality of longitudinal ribs thereby retaining the covering on the supporting surface having

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*cont.  
as*

variations in depth and insuring that the covering remains taut over the supporting surface.

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